

**Iron Mountain** (*Cont. from p. 110*)

A fifth record of decision for the site deals with discharges into a local reservoir and dredging of sediments "to prevent contamination of spawning grounds," Sugarek said.

"We're in active design on that component," he comments. "We basically are looking at another year to complete design of the sediments remedy. Then we'll be ready to go into construction," he explained.

The EPA completed a removal action last summer in an area where mining companies used to load railcars. That work involved removal of 30,000 cubic yards of waste pile materials, as part of the "Rails-to-Trails" initiative, Sugarek reported.

The EPA reached a settlement of nearly \$1 billion in 2000 with one of the potentially responsible parties at the site, Aventis CropSciences USA, to provide for cleanup over the next 30 years. However, the recent EPA report notes that cleanup, containment and monitoring efforts likely will have to continue at the site for a long period.

Estimates indicate that given current rates of erosion, Iron Mountain will continue to produce acid drainage for 2,500 to 3,000 years, until the estimated 12 million tons of sulfide deposits remaining in the mountain have weathered away. But Sugarek, who has been involved with the site for two decades, said the cleanup work is proving successful.

"There has been a definite improvement in the river," he commented.

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**Investigations****Federal, State Officials Take Closer Look at Ashland Superfund Site**

State and federal officials are reviewing new reports on investigations at the Ashland/Northern States Power Lakefront Superfund site in Wisconsin to determine what remedial actions should be taken at the waterfront location.

A feasibility study on possible remediation strategies could come early next year, the EPA reports.

The site on the shore of Chequamegon Bay on Lake Superior consists of several properties totaling about 20 acres owned by Northern States Power Co. (doing business as Xcel Energy), Canadian National

Railroad (formerly Wisconsin Central Limited Railroad) and the City of Ashland.

Ten acres of contaminated lake sediment offshore also are considered part of the site. Prior to the 1880s, the bay shoreline was located near what is now the Canadian National Railroad rail corridor.

The city-owned property, including an area now known as Kreher Park, was created by placement fill materials into the bay. The EPA reports the fill material in the eastern portion consisted of sawdust, wood and wood waste, demolition debris and other waste materials from sawmills in the area which operated from the 1880s until 1932. The western portion was filled primarily with wood, demolition waste and other waste material from the Ashland area.

A former manufactured gas plant, which operated from the 1880s until 1947 at the site, now houses a system for pumping and treating oil and tar from underlying groundwater. Contamination at the site was discovered in the late 1980s when workers excavated a trench for a sewer line.

**Oil, Tar, Other Wastes**

The state began investigating the site in 1993. Contaminants found in groundwater, sediments and a buried ravine include oil, tar and other wastes consisting of poly-aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and metals, the EPA reported.

Contamination was found to a depth of 70 feet within the Copper Falls aquifer. Two artesian wells have been closed because of health concerns, and access to part of the bay and shore has been restricted to boats and swimmers because oil and tar can be released to form a slick when the sediments are agitated.

The contaminants can cause skin irritation and increased sun sensitivity, EPA noted.

A residential area adjacent to the site also has been found to be contaminated. The site was placed on the National Priorities List in September 2002.

Beginning in 1994, various parties have carried out of supervised environmental investigations and interim cleanup projects at the site. That work has included removal of contaminated material from the ravine and pumping and treatment of groundwaters.

Xcel Energy, under a 2003 agreement with EPA, has continued field work and completed a remedial investigation and feasibility study on the site.

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**Ashland** (Cont. from p. 111)

Briana (Bri) Bill, the EPA Region 5 community involvement coordinator, said the new information is being reviewed by the EPA, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and representatives of the Red Cliff and Bad River tribes. "There is considerable new data — on sediments, fish tissue, groundwater under the old plant," Bill reported.

Bill added that the EPA also is looking at the possibility of a demonstration project involving "innovative technology" for groundwater treatment at the site, but said no decision has been made on such an initiative. Since the investigation report is completed, the EPA expects to be seeking responses from potentially responsible parties "in the next few months, she said.

A record of decision could come in 2007.

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**Davie Landfill Ticketed For Superfund Delisting**

Unless there are protests, the EPA will remove a Broward County, Fla., landfill from the Superfund list Aug. 21. The 210-acre Davie Landfill now is the site of Davie's Vista View Park, which takes up 160 acres of the Superfund location.

Local residents and officials expressed concerns over health and safety issues when the park project was proposed, but those concerns were addressed through public outreach and education efforts, according to the EPA. The park now has become a popular recreation location in an area experiencing rapid population growth, the agency reported.

The landfill was owned and operated by Broward County since 1971, and was placed on the National Priorities List in 1983. The facility included a 30-acre asphalt-lined sanitary landfill, an 80-acre trash landfill and a 10-acre wastewater sludge lagoon. The facility began accepting trash and ash from the county's garbage incinerator in 1964, and the sanitary landfill was opened in 1975 upon closure of the incinerator. In 1971, the sludge lagoon was constructed in an unlined natural depression to accept septic tank wastes and municipal sludges. The lagoon was closed in 1981.

**Biscayne Aquifer Contamination**

The primary concern at the site is contamination of the Biscayne Aquifer, a sole-source water supply

for residents in the area west of Fort Lauderdale, from leachate from the lagoon, the EPA reported. Ammonia, arsenic, chromium, iron and lead were detected in monitoring wells near the lagoon, and various organic and volatile organic compounds were found in the groundwater, the agency noted. Remedial action at the site has included excavation and stabilization of the sludge lagoon contents, which was completed in 1989.

A number of studies by the county and its consultants and state and federal agencies were conducted during the course of investigations and construction activities at the site, EPA noted. Twenty-three monitoring wells were installed in areas of the contaminated groundwater plume and areas influenced by the plume.

Analysis of samples has indicated no pollutants currently are present at levels that would violate water quality standards or pose a threat to human health, according to EPA. A final record of decision signed in August 1994 included natural attenuation of groundwater contamination, an operations and maintenance program with on-site and off-site sampling of wells. Broward County completed public water line extensions in 1996 for all residents adjacent to the site or who previously had detected groundwater contamination.

The first five-year review of the site occurred in May 2000, with a second review conducted in June 2005. "The final report concluded that the site remains protective of human health and the environment," the EPA noted.

Vista View Park was opened in July 2003. Recreation facilities in hiking, bike and horse trails; picnic shelters and a catch-and-release fishing pond. One of the most popular features is the 65-foot mound of capped waste material, which represents a vantage point for visitors in an otherwise flat landscape. The remaining 50 acres of the landfill site include a second mound where garbage was buried while the facility was in operation. That mound has been capped and vegetated, but is fenced and off-limits to the public because of continued settling and a gas collection system, EPA reported. The park eventually may be extended to include that area, the agency noted.

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